



# THE CYBERSENTINEL

The official newsletter of CyberPatriot—AFA's National Youth Cyber Education Program

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## National Commissioner's Cache



As the year 2020 fades in our rearview mirror (will we miss it?), CyberPatriot XIII is well underway. Round 1 was a great success, and we owe great thanks to not only the CP Program Office staff for their phenomenal work in adapting to “the new normal,” but to coaches and teams as well for their great suggestions and flexibility in adjusting to a new way of doing things. It’s a decidedly different world, but the need for CyberPatriot remains strong.

And our focus remains keenly fixed on broadening our outreach to students, including very young students. Be sure to read below of the outstanding work done by MSgt Sandra Gage and AFA Chapter 416 in placing CyberPatriot Literature Series books in local schools.

And a huge shout out goes to Cisco’s Marc Moffett for his receiving the CyberPatriot Order of Merit. What a great supporter of this great program he is. As always, CyberPatriot is a team sport in so many ways, including the great “team” of sponsors (led by Northrop Grumman Foundation) who underwrite this important national program. Our thanks to you all. Until next month, stay safe!

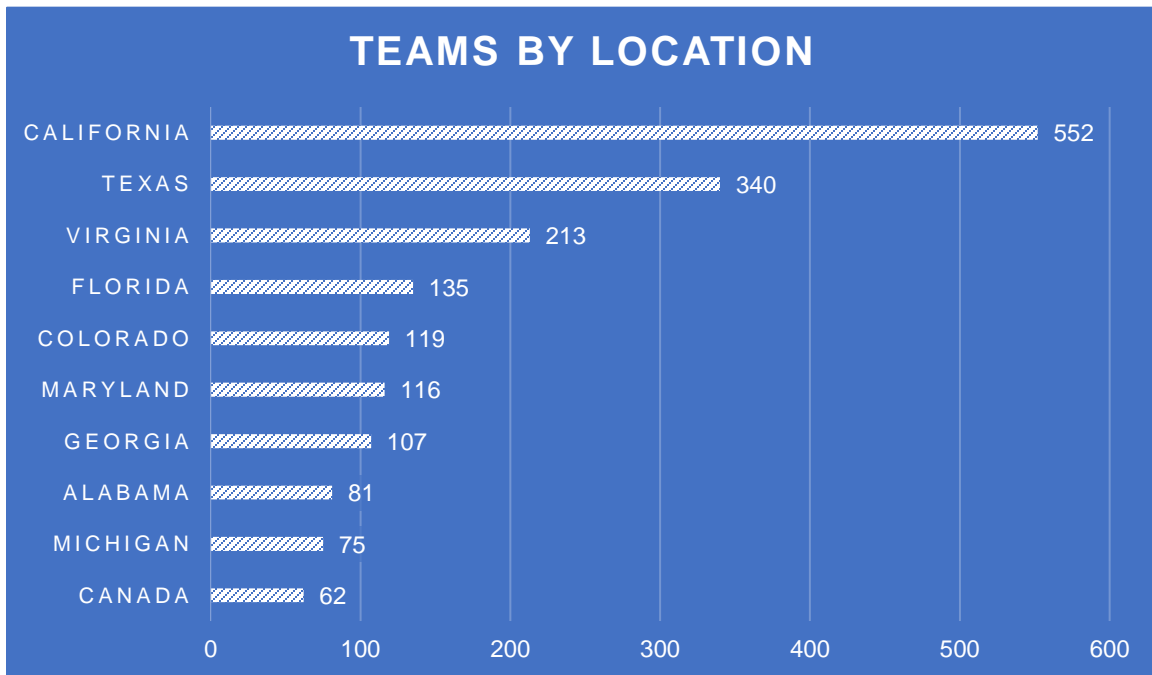
## CyberPatriot XIII Competition Updates

### Round 1 Recap

A successful CP-XIII Round 1 was held November 12-15, 2020, with 2,847 teams competing (1,711 Open Division teams, 749 All Service Division teams, and 387 Middle School Division teams).

Out of a possible 300 points (excludes Cisco Networking component), Open Division teams averaged scores of 215 points, and All Service Division teams averaged 169 points. Middle School Division teams, who were striving for a maximum score of 200 points, averaged scores of 120 points. Some of the top average scores came from Australia, Vermont, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Geographically, Round 1 was participated in by teams across the globe, though a majority of the teams were from these 10 locations:



## Kickoff Event

The CyberPatriot XIII 2020-2021 competition season started with a virtual kickoff event the morning of November 12, 2020. Teams were wished good luck by a number of program supporters, including U.S. Representative Conor Lamb (PA-17) and Dr. Paul Kaminski, Chairman of the CyberPatriot Board of Advisors. Most notably, Sandra Evers-Manly joined the event for the official ‘unleashing’ of the servers, where her mouse click opened the servers to officially start Round 1.

If you missed the kickoff event, you can check it out on CyberPatriot’s YouTube page:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5f03\\_7VGGU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5f03_7VGGU)

## First team to compete in Round 1: HGP

There is always a rush to be the first team to compete in a competition season. This year, the honor goes to Holy Ghost Preparatory School in Bensalem, Pennsylvania. Team HGP2 was the first team to populate on the scoreboard. Team members include (pictured from left to right) Jamie Mancuso, Syed Naqvi, Kamaljeeth Vijay, Shrikanth Srenivasan, Michael Nipper, and Joseph Noto. The team members not only hope to make it to the national finals, but they also (five of the six team members) are planning on majoring in a computer science discipline after high school.



Coach Brandon Petcaugh, not pictured, said, “This is our first year competing; we spent a lot of time learning from the practice round, and watching videos in the NetAcad module, and were just really excited to get into the images and see what we could do! Of course we also always want to 1-UP the teams that have come before us at the school (healthy competition), and we ended this round with the largest overall score from our school in the three years they have been competing.”

Team HGP2 spent the morning watching the kickoff event on a projector, then quickly jumped to the images as the servers were opened. The team prepared their host machines the night before and unzipped the images the day of the competition. Their planning and preparation paid off, as they were this season’s first team to compete in CP-XIII.

## **Rounds 2 and 3**

An extra day of competition has been added to Round 2, which is scheduled to begin on Thursday, instead of the typical Friday start day. Round 2 is scheduled for December 10-13. **Round 3 is still scheduled for two days only.**

The competition windows for each day of Rounds 2 are:

Thursday, 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM ET

Friday, 9:00 AM - Saturday, 3:00 AM ET

Saturday, 8:00 AM - Saturday, 11:59 PM ET

Sunday, 10:00 AM - Sunday, 10:00 PM ET

## **Rules Book Updates (IMPORTANT!)**

A new season of CyberPatriot means a new edition of the Rules Book. Below are some highlights of changes to the Rules Book. Some are new rules going forward and others are changes just for the CP-XIII season due to COVID-19.

### ***National Finals Advancement***

CyberPatriot sent a survey out earlier in 2020 asking if we needed to change how teams advance to the National Finals Competition. The overwhelming majority of responses was yes. Based on this feedback, we have decided to limit the number of teams that can advance from an organization or who are coached by the same individual to the National Finals Competition.

- ***Advancing in the Open and All Service Division***
  - Round 3 determines the top teams in each tier and category and which Platinum Tier teams advance to the National Finals Competition.
  - Advancement to the National Finals competition is limited to 2 teams from the same school, organization, or coach in the Open Division and 1 team per school, organization, or coach in the All Service Division
  - The 12 highest scoring Open Division teams from the Platinum Tier advance to the National Finals Competition based on their Round 3 scores.
  - Thirteen All Service Division teams from the Platinum Tier advance to the National Finals Competition. Based on their Round 3 scores, the two highest scoring teams from each category advance to the National Finals Competition. Only one team from the same school, organization, or coach can advance to the National Finals Competition in the All Service Division. The team with the highest national score that was not advanced with any category is the All Service Division Wild Card and advances to the National Finals Competition.
- ***Advancing in the Middle School Division***
  - Middle School Division teams do not have tiers in the CyberPatriot competition. All Middle School Division teams have the same level of difficulty throughout the competition.

- The three Middle School Division teams with the highest cumulative scores in Rounds 1, 2, and 3 advance to the National Finals Competition.
- Only one team from the same school, organization, or coach can advance to the National Finals Competition in the Middle School Division.

## Participant Kits

The CyberPatriot Program Office will be using a fulfillment center for the packing and shipping of this season's participant kits. Participant kit shipments will be completed in early and mid-December.



Items include a CP-XIII t-shirt, challenge coin, and lapel pin. Additionally, a customizable digital participation certificate is available for download on the volunteer dashboard.

## CyberPatriot Order of Merit | Marc Moffett

CyberPatriot awarded the Order of Merit to Marc Moffett, a Senior Systems Engineer Director at Cisco and author at Cisco Blogs. Marc (bottom right) was officially presented with his award during a small online award ceremony on Wednesday, October 28. He was joined by CyberPatriot staff members Bernie Skoch (top right) and Rachel Zimmerman (bottom left), and fellow Cisco colleague and Order of Merit recipient, Cindy DeCarlo (top left).



The Order of Merit was created in 2014 to recognize individual's sustained superior achievement in promoting the STEM education objectives of the program. Since the creation of the award, 18 individuals have been presented with the honor for their outstanding support of CyberPatriot.

## International Spinoffs



**CyberCenturion**, the international spinoff competition that operates in the United Kingdom, started Round 1 with 116 teams competing in the 2020-2021 competition season. This is the seventh season for CyberCenturion. Much like CyberPatriot, the program will crown a grand final winner in the spring.

**CyberTitan**, the Canadian spinoff of CyberPatriot, has 103 registered teams registered for this competition season. While CyberTitan teams compete in the same competition as CyberPatriot teams, they also have their own competition finals each year among the top 10 scoring CyberTitan teams. The final event is typically held in mid-spring.



**We are pleased to announce the creation of CyberSakura**, the newest international program that's based in Japan. A pilot competition is in effect for the 2020-2021 season, with potential for a full competition launch in the 2021-2022 season. The CyberSakura logo features the Sakura flower, known more commonly in the U.S. as the cherry blossom, accompanied by the words "spirit, mind, body."

## CyberPatriot Literature Series

AFA Chapter 416 started an initiative to promote STEM education by doing a CyberPatriot Book Donation. Amy Wade, Greenville Independent School District Community Relations & Marketing Liaison (left) and President, MSgt Sandra Gage (right), teamed up to accomplish the executive committee's idea of putting a new CyberPatriot book series into some of the local schools.

The books were delivered to five elementary campuses in the area with a plan to incentivize reading the books with a book report project. Gage said in the Northeast Flyer for AFA Chapter 416, "We are trying to help support our Community Partners by providing something of value. The earlier we reach our students and gain their interest in this critical subject, the better of our nation will be."



## CyberPatriot Shoutout

### All Girls Team | The Hyper Ladies

CyberPatriot would like to give a shoutout to the all-girls team from Huntsville High School, as they are a major part of our initiative to bring a bigger female presence to STEM.

While Huntsville High School has been competing in CyberPatriot for five years, this is the second year the school has had an all-girls team. The Hyper Ladies, said to have named their team after their high energy and good spirits, are excited to be participating. When asked what advice the team would give to other girls who may want to get involved in learning cybersecurity, The Hyper Ladies said, "Just go for it, because you never know what you can achieve until you try."



The national average for women in STEM is 12%, while CyberPatriot has nearly 31% female participation. CyberPatriot recognizes the need for more women in STEM and addresses the challenge by offering waived fees for All Girls teams. This year CP-XIII has a total of 228 All Girls teams competing in the 2020-2021 season.

## Holiday Highlights

Looking for a cool gift this holiday season? Check out our cyber wish list:

1. **Raspberry Pi 4 Starter Kit** – The new Raspberry Pi 4 is a powerful and compact computing system that is now capable of running virtualization software such as VMWare. (\$99.99 on [Amazon](#))
2. **Infinity Orb Magnetic Levitating Speaker with Bluetooth** (\$105.00 on [Amazon](#))
3. **WisToyz Hover Soccer Ball Set 2020 Version** – The soccer ball is rechargeable via USB and can hover over all types of floors, including carpet. (\$28.00 on [Amazon](#))
4. **HP Sprocket Select Portable 2.3”x3.4” Instant Photo Printer** – Allows you to print pictures on Zink Sticky-backed paper from your Apple or Android device. (\$99.99 on [Amazon](#) – A less expensive alternative is the Fujifilm Instax Mini 11 Instant Camera for \$59.95 on [Amazon](#))
5. **ILEBYGO Mini Wireless Keyboard** – 2.4Ghz Q9 Colorful Backlit and Touchpad Mouse Combo with Rechargeable Remote Control for Android TV Box, Projector, IPTV, HTPC, PC, Laptop (\$15.99 on [Amazon](#))

### Tips for staying safe while shopping online

It can be hard to pass up on some of the season’s biggest deals. But remember, an increase in online shopping means an increase in malicious online activity. Be smart (and safe) – follow these few key steps to help protect your personal information while shopping online this season:

- Never use public Wi-Fi to shop online or conduct an activity that divulges personal identifiable information on a public, unsecured network
- Check that you are using a secure browser connection by looking for https:// in the URL. The “s” stands for secure in Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure.
- Avoid using the same password or simple passwords
- Stay alert to shopping or holiday themed phishing schemes, including click baits

## Meet the CyberPatriot Staff

An Interview with Rachel Zimmerman | Senior Director of Business Operations, CyberPatriot



*Q: When did you start at CyberPatriot? Do you remember your interview or first day?*

A: I joined CyberPatriot in the fall of 2010. Registration for CyberPatriot III was underway and the program was growing and expanding.

*Q: What is one of your most memorable moments with CyberPatriot.*

A: I've had so many memorable moments working at CyberPatriot. From the satisfaction at the end of National Finals each year that we've completed another successful season to helping a program I helped build from scratch launch and be successful. But my favorite memories are interacting with our competitors and alumni and hearing the impact that CyberPatriot had on their life.

*Q: How do you feel about working for a program that promotes STEM learning to our youth?*

A: I wish this program was around when I was in high school. I had an interest in STEM fields but there were no extracurricular activities that interested me. I went to college and I had no idea what I wanted to major in. I love working for a program that helps youth think about what they want to do in the future.

*Q: What was a challenge in school or work that you overcame and how can it apply to what competitors face during competition time?*

A: One thing I face daily in my job is task prioritization and good communication among the CyberPatriot Program Office. Competitors will need to prioritize which vulnerabilities and tasks to tackle first during a competition round and will need to have good communication with their CyberPatriot teammates to ensure that all competition tasks are getting completed.

*Q: What would you say to a first-time competitor?*

A: Have fun!

## CyberPatriot & The News

### [Leidos Continues Support of CyberPatriot as Cyber Silver Sponsor](#)

“The Air Force Association is privileged to once again receive the strong support of Leidos,” said Bernie Skoch, CyberPatriot National Commissioner. “As a founding partner of CyberPatriot, Leidos support continues to play a key role in CyberPatriot's growth. For more than a decade, Leidos has played a role in the important work of attracting our nation's youth to education and careers in STEM.”

### [5 Cyber-Security Protocols That Every Organization Needs to Follow to Ensure Complete Security Of Data](#)

Even as the world comes to terms with the new normal in the post COVID-19 era, the cyber space continues to remain one of the most vulnerable dimensions for businesses and economies. While e-commerce and increasing digital adoption across sectors, has been a saving grace for the both government and businesses, the increased instances of data fraud, cyber security breaches and ransomware/malware attacks, are posing a huge threat to not just the financial security but also personal privacy and life at large.